

**REMARKS**

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-12, and 14-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, and 15 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. By this Amendment claims 23 and 24 are added and claim 13 is cancelled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments defined herein and the following remarks.

In the Office Action dated July 26, 2005, claims 1, 4-7, 10 and 13-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nayar et al 5,707,483 in view of Couillard et al 6,454,890 and in further view of McNichols et al 6,547,903. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use the device of Nayar in view of Couillard and to use a specific rotating roller and anvil configurations as a matter of design choice based upon the physical properties of the articles being manufactured. Nayar is relevant for its disclosure of a rotary acoustic horn having a length of a lambda half-wave. Couillard discloses a bonding apparatus having multiple rotary horns in combination with the same number of anvils, each horn corresponding to an anvil. See col. 3, ll. 46-50. As shown in Figs. 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B, each rotating roller used in the ultrasonic welding apparatus is paired with a corresponding anvil. The present invention discloses an ultrasonic welding apparatus having at least two tandem rotating rollers in contact with the anvil. See claim 1. The use of two tandem rotating rollers in contact with the anvil is not merely a design choice, but has the effect of limiting friction during the ultrasonic welding process. Both Nayar and Couillard are devoid of teaching of an ultrasonic welding device having at least two rotating rollers in tandem in contact with the opposing anvil. Therefore, the combination of Nayar and Couillard does not render obvious an ultrasonic welding device including at least two rotating rollers in tandem, both in contact with the anvil. Reconsideration of this rejection under § 103 is respectfully requested.

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Claims 2, 8-9 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nayar et al 5,707,483 in view of Mlinar et al 5,976,316 and further in view of McNichols et al 6,547,903. Mlinar is relevant only for its disclosure of the implementation of radial bearings in a mounting system for an ultrasonic element. The combination of Nayar, Mlinar, and McNichols does not disclose at least two rotating rollers in tandem that are in contact with the anvil and are driven on both axial ends by an amplitude transformer and at least one ultrasonic converter with an energy supply. Therefore, the combination of references cited does not render claims 2, 8-9, and 11-12 obvious. Reconsideration of this rejection under §103 is requested.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner, after considering this Amendment, is of the opinion that the claims will be allowable with additional modifications, the Examiner is

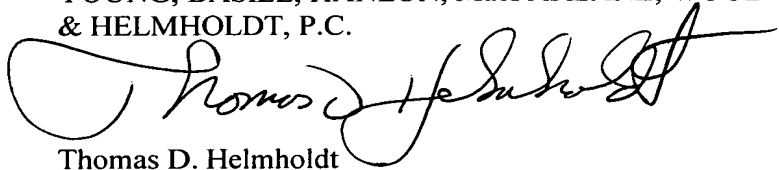
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invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number to discuss such claim modifications.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas D. Helmholdt", written over a horizontal line.

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